

portions of the abandoned track of the former Staten Island Railway Corporation (SIRR) in New York and New Jersey lying generally between the Chemical Coast Secondary Line and points on Staten Island, NY. Based on the parties' representations, the lines to be activated for service include: (1) Track between milepost 3.8 at John Street east of Arlington Yard, Richmond County, NY, and milepost 6.9, via the Chemical Coast Secondary Line, at or near the connection between the Chemical Coast Connector and the Chemical Coast Secondary Line in Union County, NJ, a distance of 3.1 miles;¹ (2) track between milepost 0.0 at or near Port Ivory, Richmond County, NY, and milepost 0.94 at the end of the line near Howland Hook, Richmond County, NY, a distance of 0.94 miles; and (3) the "Travis Branch" between milepost 0.0 at Arlington Yard Station and milepost 3.65 in Richmond County, NY, a distance of 3.65 miles.² The lines to be used in providing service also include the new industrial lead and switching track to be constructed off of the Travis Branch³ into the New York City Department of Sanitation facility being constructed at the Fresh Kills landfill site on Staten Island (Fresh Kills facility).

The provision of freight rail service in this proceeding is a component of the

Staten Island Railroad Revitalization Project, a joint effort between the Port Authority and NYCEDC. The parties state that, at this time, they are negotiating an operating agreement with NYCEDC that will govern how such freight rail service will occur.⁴

The parties anticipate that the traffic flows over the subject lines will primarily consist of the following: (1) Block movements of intermodal traffic, assembled by the Howland Hook Marine Terminal/Port Ivory operator, to and from Arlington Yard (Howland Hook Traffic); (2) movements of containerized municipal solid waste, assembled by the Fresh Kills facility operator, to and from the Fresh Kills facility (Fresh Kills Traffic); and (3) movements of mixed merchandise (including aggregates and paper products) to and from two potential customers located on the Travis Branch (Travis Branch Traffic).

The parties indicate that, in general, Conrail will move the Howland Hook Traffic and the Travis Branch Traffic to and from Staten Island to the Conrail Shared Assets Areas for line haul movement via NS and CSX. Conrail will switch the Travis Branch Traffic, if and when it develops, directly from the customers' facilities. NS and/or CSX will likely serve the Fresh Kills Traffic directly. The parties state that Conrail will dispatch the subject lines, while NYCEDC will retain responsibility for maintaining the subject lines and operating the Arthur Kill Lift Bridge.

The rail lines qualify for a modified certificate of public convenience and necessity. See *Common Carrier Status of States, State Agencies and Instrumentalities and Political Subdivisions*, Finance Docket No. 28990F (ICC served July 16, 1981).

The parties indicate that the only precondition to a shipper's receipt of service is the execution of an agreement with CSX or NS that specifies the rates and other terms and conditions of the service such carriers will provide. They also indicate that: (1) There are no subsidizers, and (2) existing insurance

covering the parties' current operations will be expanded to cover operations over the subject lines; no additional insurance will be acquired.

This notice will be served on the Association of American Railroads (Car Service Division) as agent for all railroads subscribing to the car-service and car-hire agreement: Association of American Railroads, 50 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001; and on the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association: American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, 50 F Street, NW., Suite 7020, Washington, DC 20001.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: March 12, 2004.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-6090 Filed 3-18-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 646X)]

CSX Transportation, Inc.— Abandonment Exemption—in Pinellas County, FL

On March 1, 2004, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), filed with the Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a line of railroad in its Southern Region, Jacksonville Division, Clearwater Subdivision, extending from milepost SY 893.80 to milepost SY 895.65, a distance of approximately 1.85 miles, in St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, FL. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 33712 and 33705 and includes no stations.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in CSXT's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by June 18, 2004.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will

¹ On January 21, 2004, the Board served a decision in *Port Authority of New York and New Jersey—Petition for Declaratory Order*, STB Finance Docket No. 34428, finding that the construction by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (Port Authority) of the connector between the SIRR trackage and the Chemical Coast Secondary Line, and operations thereover, do not require Board approval. The parties will reach this segment via the connector. No trains will operate on the abandoned SIRR lines until 2005, when it is anticipated that construction of the connector will be complete.

² The SIRR was abandoned in two parts. Those segments subject to this proceeding that were approved for abandonment in *Staten Island Railway Corporation—Abandonment*, Docket No. AB-263 (Sub-No. 3) (ICC served Dec. 5, 1991) include: (1) Track between milepost 3.8 at John Street and milepost 12.09 at or near Cranford Junction, NJ; and (2) track between milepost 0.0 at or near Port Ivory and milepost 0.94 near Howland Hook. The Travis Branch was abandoned pursuant to authority granted in *Staten Island Ry. Corp.—Aband. Exempt.—In Richmond County, NY*, Docket No. AB-263 (Sub-No. 2X) (ICC served July 3, 1990). The lines were subsequently acquired by the States of New York and New Jersey. No freight rail traffic has moved over these lines since these abandonments became effective. Segments of the former SIRR that are not the subject of this proceeding are those that lie west of the Chemical Coast Secondary Line.

³ On October 29, 2003, the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) filed a petition in *The New York City Economic Development Corporation—Petition for Declaratory Order*, STB Finance Docket No. 34429, for a declaratory order seeking certain determinations as to the Travis Branch. A decision in that case is pending.

⁴ Following the negotiation of this operating agreement, the parties state that they will submit a petition seeking: (1) An exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323 to permit the parties to implement the operations described in the modified certificate in a manner described in the agreement; (2) a prior determination that the authority granted by the Board pursuant to the petition will automatically expire upon the termination of the modified certificate, and that Conrail will not be able to unilaterally terminate the modified certificate; and (3) a determination that the grant of authority under 49 U.S.C. 11323 will not give Conrail any ratemaking, interchange, or other common carrier authority that it currently lacks. The parties indicate that a copy of the operating agreement will accompany the petition.

be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each offer must be accompanied by a \$1,100 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than March 29, 2004. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 646X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Jonathan C. Gold, 500 Water Street, J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202. Replies to the CSXT petition are due on or before March 29, 2004.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1539. (Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.)

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA, will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Board decisions and notices are available on the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: March 15, 2004.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

[INTL-50-86]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, INTL-50-86 (TD 8110), Sanctions on Issuers and Holders of Registration-Required Obligations Not in Registered Form (§§ 1.65-12 and 1.1287-1).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before May 18, 2004, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Glenn Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be directed to Allan Hopkins, at (202) 622-6665, or at Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224, or through the internet, at Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Sanctions on Issuers and Holders of Registration-Required Obligations Not in Registered Form.

OMB Number: 1545-0786.

Regulation Project Number: INTL-50-86.

Abstract: Sections 165(j) and 1287(a) of the Internal Revenue Code provide that persons holding registration-required obligations in bearer form are subject to certain penalties. These sections also provide that certain persons may be exempted from these penalties if they comply with reporting requirements with respect to ownership, transfers, and payments on the obligations. The reporting requirements in this regulation are necessary to ensure that persons holding registration-required obligations in bearer form

properly report interest income and gain on disposition of the obligations.

Current Actions: There is no change to this existing regulation.

Type of Review: Extension of OMB approval.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Responses: 750,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 3 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 39,742.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: March 15, 2004.

Glenn Kirkland,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-6222 Filed 3-18-04; 8:45 am]

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